

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-17 (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) A vessel filter comprising first and second end portions, a first region at the first end portion and a second region at the second end portion, the first region including a filtering section for capturing particles and having a first transverse dimension at a first terminal end of the filter, the second region including a mounting section at a second terminal end of the filter for mounting the filter within the vessel, the mounting section having a second transverse dimension at the second terminal end of the filter, the second dimension being greater than the first transverse dimension and including vessel engaging structure to retain the filter, the first region further including a retrieval region, the retrieval region including a hook having a cutout exposing an internal annular surface, the hook having a single ear, the annular surface dimensioned to receive a portion of a retrieval sheath.

19. (Original) The vessel filter of claim 18, wherein the retrieval region includes a radiused region having first and second curved surfaces extending distally inwardly.

20. (Previously presented) A vessel filter comprising a first region and a second region, the first region including a filtering section for capturing particles and having a first transverse dimension, the second region including a mounting section for mounting the filter within the vessel, the mounting section having a second transverse dimension greater than the first transverse dimension and including vessel engaging structure to retain the filter, the first region further including a retrieval region having a longitudinal axis, the retrieval region including a hook on only one side of the longitudinal axis at a proximal end thereof and a curved wall spaced axially from the hook to provide a camming surface to facilitate entry into a retrieval sheath, the hook having an inner surface exposed and dimensioned to receive a portion of a retrieval device.

21. (Previously presented) A vessel filter comprising a first region and a second region, the first region including a filtering section for capturing particles and having a first transverse dimension, the second region including a mounting section for mounting the filter within the vessel, the mounting section having a second transverse dimension greater than the first transverse dimension and including vessel engaging structure to retain the filter, the vessel engaging structure including a first set of hooks and a second set of hooks, each set of hooks being positioned at an end of the mounting

section, each of the hooks of the first set of hooks having a transverse dimension greater than a transverse dimension of each of the hooks of the second set of hooks.

22. (Previously presented) The vessel filter of claim 21, wherein the mounting section includes a plurality of struts and one of the hooks extends from a terminal end of the strut, the terminal end of each strut defining a first plane and each hook extending from the strut lying in the first plane of the strut.

23. (Original) The vessel filter of claim 22, wherein the first set of struts is axially offset from the second set of struts.

24. (Original) The vessel filter of claim 23, wherein the filter is formed from a laser cut tube, the tube cut to form a set of struts, wherein each of the hooks of the second set of hooks are formed of a transverse dimension substantially corresponding to a transverse dimension of one strut and each of the hooks of the first set are formed of a transverse dimension substantially corresponding to a transverse dimension of two adjacent struts.

25. (Original) The vessel filter of claim 23, wherein an outer surface of the second set of hooks substantially conforms to an inner surface of the first set of hooks.

26. (Previously presented) The vessel filter of claim 20, further comprising vessel engaging hooks, the vessel engaging hooks extending from the mounting section to be positioned at a terminal end of the filter.